Seattle Times
5/08/80

MAY 22 1990

PCB: Agencies want it banned at food, fertilizer, feed facilities

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Three government agencies are proposing a ban on highly toxic PCBs around food-production, fertilizer and animal-feed facilities.

The proposed regulations would order the establishments to remove any electrical equipment that contains polychlorinated biphenyls in amounts of more than 50 parts a million.

Officials said the new regulations, to be formally issued tomorrow, are an attempt to prevent a repeat of that incident. The rules are being proposed jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Agriculture Department and the Food and Drug Administration.

Affected businesses will have 90 days to comment, and the rule would not go into effect until between six months and one year after being finally adopted.

Congress has banned production of PCBs, and last year the E.P.A. issued regulations governing the transportation and disposal of PCB products.

The Environmental Defense Fund has taken the E.P.A. to court, saying the agency's regulations left untouched 99 per cent of the 750 million pounds of PCBs already in use because the E.P.A. failed to require the phaseout of electrical transformers that contain the chemical.

The new rules would represent a partial reversal of that stand.

Businesses covered by the new ban would include fertilizer and pesticide processing and manufacturing facilities, food processors including slaughterhouses and poultry-, egg- and fish-processing facilities and animal-feed producers.